

ABSTRACT

Phase I and Phase II archeological investigations were conducted at the William Murphy House (N544) in New Castle County, Delaware. These projects were funded by the Delaware Department of Transportation as part of cultural mitigation for the proposed dualization of Route 141 (Centre Road).

Historical documents and maps indicate that the structure was built in the mid 19th century and was part of a larger 19th century farm. The Phase I investigations revealed 19th and 20th century components, all of which were found in plowzone contexts or temporally mixed soils. One intact, potentially significant feature, a 19 foot square foundation made of stone was present in the backyard area. Phase II investigations were recommended for this feature. The Phase II investigations defined the feature spatially; although no functional interpretation could be made. Based on the artifacts recovered from the plowzone adjacent to the foundation, it appears to date to no earlier than the late 19th, and probably was constructed and used during the 20th century.

The William Murphy House yard site was not considered to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places as it lacked contextual integrity and was not likely to produce significant research information. No additional archeological work was recommended.